THE MINISTER OF STATE *OF* THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) did not witness any slump during the year 1993-94 in its sales turnover. The Company recorded a turnover of Rs. 416.69 crores during the year, which was an all time high. Likewise, the production of Iron ore concentrates at 6.20 million tonnes in 1993-94 was also a record achievement. However, net profit of the company during the year 1993-94 was marginally lower at Rs. 94.87 crores ag compared to Rs. 100.15 crores in the preceding year. This was primarily due to a fall in the international prices of Iron Ore and hike in power tariff.

Basic grade pig iron for export

4976. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several private parties have approached the Vissakhapatnam Steel Authorities for supply of basic grade pig iron for export;

(b) if so, the number of applications received and the action taken by the Steel Plant Authorities; and

(c) the reasons of abnormal delay therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant received 91 [applications from July, 1994 till April, 1995 and all of them have been replied suitably and promptly. 58 applications were replied on the same day, 21 the next day and the remaining 12 in two days. Details of action taken on the applications received are as follows:—

Total applications		**91**
Offers given		**42**
Offers rejected		**38**
(i) Due to Non-availability	25	
(ii) Due to not matching of specifications	8	
(iii) On commercial grounds	5	
	38	
General Correspondence		**11**

(c) Not applicable in view of answer to part (b) above.

Privatisation , of iron ore mines in Bailadila

4977. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise bring under Joint Venture iron ore mines in Bailadila; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) is currently operating two mining projects in Bailadila, namely Deposit 14/11C and Deposit 5. In order to meet the increasing demand for Bailadila iron ore, NMDC proposes